

A VAN-tastic Night at HRP Lochgelly Raceway!!!



A glorious sunny evening greeted drivers, teams and a huge number of fans as they gathered at HRP Lochgelly Raceway this past Saturday for the latest slice of stock car action presented by Hardie Race Promotions.





Undoubtedly, many of the new faces were there to see one thing, the Big Van Bangers Scottish Championship and the drivers did not disappoint as a fantastic 26 vans arrived to do battle. Most of the vans were the usual standard Ford Transit but Sean McConnachie did bring a vintage Mk2 Transit Camper Van which was looked on with some trepidation by the track staff. Sure enough, with all of the vans on the grid for the Scottish Championship race, it did not take long for chaos to ensue as the drivers got well and truly stuck in. McConnachie's camper was an early casualty as the camper body fell off the back of the van before being destroyed by other drivers running over it – much to the chagrin of the track staff! Scott Lindsell led most of the way as the field thinned out but he was caught and overtaken by Craig McNicoll in the closing stages to see McNicoll crowned Big Van Bangers Scottish Champion 2016 in a race that began with over twenty vans and finished with just four survivors! The second heat saw the majority of the vans back out on track after some great work in the pits by the teams to repair them – plus a great job from the HRP Lochgelly Raceway track staff to remove the remnants of Sean McConnachie's camper van from the racing circuit! It was Cowdenbeath's Scott Lindsell who managed to stay ahead of the only other surviving vehicle belonging to Lochgelly's BJ Mitchell in another race full of incidents and big hits. The Big Vans brought their evening to a close with a Demolition Derby which saw more big smashes and huge entertainment for the large crowd in attendance as BJ Mitchell outlasted the rest of the field to be the sole survivor and the winner of a VAN-tastic DD.

The CC Rods made a welcome return to HRP Lochgelly Raceway after a couple of weeks off and, yet again, a good number of cars had arrived in the pits by the 6pm start including debutants Kevin Donaldson and Steven Rice. It was Kelty's Colin Wotherspoon though who claimed the glory in heat one as he held off Kevin Hutchison (Kirkcaldy) and Craig Watson (East Wemyss). It was another victory for

Fife in heat two as Methil's Robert Cairns made up for the disappointment of being disqualified for contact in heat one with victory in heat two ahead of Leslie's Ian Hotchkies in his Mk2 Astra and 2016 Rookie Michael McNiven. The CC Rods have upped their game lately in terms of turnouts and the quality of racing and this was underlined in an excellent feature final which eventually went the way of Cairns to earn himself a heat and final winning double with McNiven claiming his first feature podium finish in second ahead of Kirkcaldy lady racer Emma Kirk on a great night of CC Rod action.



The Stock Rods were back for their second meeting in seven days and another good field of cars arrived for the evening including newly-crowned Scottish Champion Chris Lattka whose car was resplendent with the Saltire adorning the roof. The first heat saw a win for the newly-returned John Venters as the Balado pilot showed he had lost none of his pace with a great win ahead of Kelty's John-Lee Green and Pete Thomson of Kennoway. Heat Two saw Thomson claim his first win of 2016 as he held off Green who was looking very quick last Saturday and National Points Champion Siobhan Martin. The feature final was a virtual clinic of Stock Rod racing with the drivers using every ounce of their skills to race in close proximity to one another without the ability to use their bumpers to move their opponents. Close non-contact racing is a hallmark of HRP Stock Rods and last Saturday highlighted that as Cowdenbeath's Stewart Paterson held the lead for around 20 laps of the 25 lap race before eventually succumbing to the pressure from Scottish Champion Chris Lattka who went on to claim the feature final win ahead of Paterson and Jonathan Lattka on a great night for Stock Rod racing.



The final formula on show were the magnificent Ministox. The formula for 11-16-year-old drivers has been the top formula wherever they have raced in 2016 and another good grid of cars arrived at HRP Lochgelly Raceway to resume hostilities. One notable entrant was Sophie Daughtrey who had travelled all the way from the West Country to take part in the final meeting of her Ministox career – a great effort. Lockerbie's Euan Millar has been challenging for honours all season long and he scooped victory in heat one ahead of Stepps' Sean Naismith and arch-nemesis Steven Burgoyne in a race that was punctuated by a spectacular rollover for Luke McCallum. Naismith has managed to get himself into the picture as far as the chase for the HRP National Points Championship is concerned and he followed up his runners-up spot in heat one with a great win in heat two with Terri Linden and Charlie Folan claiming the other podium spots in a race where heat one winner Millar did not appear. The feature final saw Millar once again absent and a great race ensued under the HRP Lochgelly Raceway floodlights with Ciaran Adams making great headway as he managed to gain a good-sized lead from the chasing pack all the way through to the latter stages where, sadly for the young Kelty pilot, he was pushed wide by Naismith before spinning out on the home straight. To his credit, Adams collected himself and finished the race on the lead lap but sadly outside of the top ten. Naismith went on to claim an excellent heat and final double to help his National Points Championship challenge with Burgoyne coming home in second and a fast-moving Bryan Lindsay in third. The top three were sent round on their lap of honour and were accompanied by Sophie Daughtrey who was given a trophy in acknowledgement of her contribution to Ministox racing and by way of thanks for her travelling exploits.

A great night of action witnessed by a huge and appreciative crowd at HRP Lochgelly Raceway. Championship Fever continues this Saturday September 24th as the 2.0 Hot Rods contest their Scottish

Championship. Can Kenny Purdie add the Scottish Championship to his British title or will London and Irish Masters Champion Gordon alexander take the crown? Do not discount the likes of Gerry Hendry, Jock Campbell or Billy Bonnar though as the formula is more competitive at this point in 2016 than they have been before! The Superstox, ProStocks and Ninja Karts round off a thirteen race programme of events which gets underway at HRP Lochgelly Raceway on September 24th at 6pm.